Wes. Theo. Seminary
Feb. 10th 1844.

To the Society of Inquiry
Princeton Theo Seminary

Dear Brethren

We freely reciprocate the sentiments of Christian regard contained in your letter & join in hoping that our correspondence may provoke us all to larger, to more enlarged views of our relations & responsibilities - that it may excite us to greater zeal & sacrifices for the glory of God. We are we trust the adopted children of a common Parent, joint heirs with Christ to a common glorious inheritance, united in the same faith, animated by the same hope, soon to take our places on a common field, to labor by the same means for the same great End. And if we read aright the signs of the times, there will be need of sympathy - need of mutual aid, & that all "should come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty". In our part of the Church Satan has been permitted to buffet us severely. The mouth of one of God's witnesses has been stopped & his usefulness to all human view is forever impaired. When God thus plainly shows that he has a controversy with us, & permits Religion to triumph in blasting the reputation of one who stood high in confidence we ought to be humbled in the dust. We allude of course to the case of the Rev Geo. Bourhol.

The Church of Rome here too is making advances. Dr. O'Connor has recently returned from Italy in the character of bishop. He brings with him at least Six "Sisters of mercy" with money & Experience to lure the ignorant, & smooth the pathway for the "Man of Sin" He is said to be attended also with Six or Eight young men who are

candidates for "Holy orders." This is understood to be the beginning of a Seminary such as they usually attach to their Cathedrals. Already we have a Cathedral set over against us & we know not how soon we shall have a Theo. Seminary also. Some seventy five thousand dollars were recently sent from Europe during the past year to complete a German Cathedral here. It is already hastily finished. Their plans are deeply laid, their numbers are continually increasing & though in the midst of Protestants, they are little or nothing affected. Prejudice ignorance & bigotry seem impenetrable barriers to the ordinary means of reaching them. And our city is only a specimen of every important place in the West. Every year is bringing the machinery & material of Spiritual despotism among us. Things here & abroad indicate that the great battle of the Reformation is to be fought again, with the same enemy gathering her recruits from foreign fields disciplined by leaders rendered cautious & desperate by previous defeat. And a gloomy augury is that Protestants are nowhere awake to the real danger, that the history of Romanism is so little known by the mass, & its vast designs are so studiously & effectually concealed. Now shall these things be met? Who shall come forth from among us humble towards God but bold towards men & tear away the veil which hides the deformity of popery? Who Luther-like will throw himself into the breach & rouse the Spirits of slumbering Protestantism to the rescue? These are questions which must be answered ere long. The case is urgent & the danger great. Else why among other things, the recent Revival of Jesuitism, the sworn foe of the Reformation, the bane of morality & civil liberty when less than a century ago, insulted nations & Kings & even the Pope himself combined to dig its grave, & hide its awful form from the face of clamoring Europe?

We mourn with you over the controversies which divide

the great protestant family, & especially our own Church. Our strength is thus exhausted in fighting against ourselves while our outworks are left undefended. These controversies are doubly injurious to us. They give plausibility to the papal Sophism, that She alone possesses her unity & therefore is the only true Church.

The great West is indeed attracting our attention. Most of our Senior class expect to labor in that field. But our strength at present is nothing compared with magnitude of the work, though we trust from the increasing prosperity of our Seminary now numbering fifty one members that it will not always be so. Brethren help us answer the Macedonian cry from the West.

We have nothing very gratifying to report of our missionary feeling. We trust however that the heathen world is not forgotten nor its claims unheeded. We have originated a plan by which we meet every month with the other Seminaries of the place, (the Ref. Pres. & Associate Ref.) to hear a lecture from one of our professors on their own some missionary subject. We are not very sanguine of the results. It affords an opportunity however of bringing the great subject to bear upon branches of the Presbyterian Church which hitherto have shown little zeal in missionary operations, Especially in the foreign field.

A Protestant Association was formed here about a year ago, but we fear its influence is little felt. It meets a cordial support by some, is regarded with cold indifference by most, & is despised by others. We hope however that the recent developements of Rome here & abroad may rouse the Church to its importance.

In conclusion Brethren we solicit a continued correspondence.

Yours in Christian fellowship & love.

By order of Society

J. Wesley Miller

Asst. Cor. Secretary.

Society of Inquiry
Princeton
New Jersey

Single